OFFICIAL Expedited Examining Procedure Group 1762

> PATENT Docket No. 54407US002

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GROUP TOO Applicant(s): Scott J. TUMAN et al. Group Art Unit: 1762 Serial No.: 09/822,651 Examiner: Elena Tsoy Confirmation No.: 9447 Filed: 30 March 2001 For: WEB HAVING DISCRETE STEM REGIONS

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Attn: BOX RCE

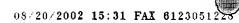
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants have received the Advisory Action dated 9 August 2002 and are submitting herewith a Request for Continued Examination to provide the Examiner with an opportunity to fully consider the amendments and remarks submitted on 24 July 2002.

With respect to the comments regarding the teachings of Reich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,465,660), Applicants thank the Examiner for clarifying that inherency is relied on as support for the assertion that Reich et al. teach "polymeric regions."

Applicants do, however, traverse the assertion that "hook fasteners 32, 36 are conventional fasteners of Velcro type." Nowhere does Reich et al. explicitly teach "Velcro type" fasteners. Rather, the teachings are limited to "hook and loop fasteners." As a result, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that Reich et al. inherently teaches "polymeric regions."





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It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 21-55 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted for Scott J. TUMAN et al.

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Box RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 20th day of August, 2002, at 230 p.m. (Central Time).

By: Vighe Ongland Cont. Name: facual Onlined: - Graham